

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9172
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT,SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

1. UDE BURIES THE HATCHET. AFTER A LENGTHY FEB 25 MEETING (MADRID 1470), UDE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT OVERRULING THE DECISION, ANNOUNCED EARLIER BY PARTY SECCEN MONREAL LUQUE, TO BREAK UDE'S FEDERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PARTIDO POPULAR (PP). THE STATEMENT ADDED THAT UDE CONSIDERED PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF CENTRO DEMOCRATICO, IN WHICH BOTH UDE AND THE PP PARTICIPATE. IT CONCLUDED WITH A REAFFIRMATION OF UDE'S UNITY AND ITS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CALLING. OVER THE WEEKEND PP PRESIDENT CABANILLAS CHARACTERIZED THE UDE COMMUNIQUE AS "COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY". (COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING

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THE CONCILIATORY WORDS, WE MAY NOT HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF THE UDE SAGA.)

2. VIOLENCE IN VIZCAYA. THE WEEKEND BROUGHT MASSIVE SIT-INS IN CHURCHES AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN GUIPUZCOA AND VIZCAYA AS PART OF YET ANOTHER PRO-MNESTY CAMPAIGN. IN USUALLY VOLATILE GUIPUZCOA PUBLIC ORDER FORCES HANDLED

THE DEMONSTRATORS WITH KID GLOVES, AND THERE REPORTEDLY WERE NO PROBLEMS. IN VIZCAYA, HOWEVER, MANY DEMONSTRATORS WERE FORCIBLY EVICTED BY THE POLICE, PRECIPITATING SOME VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS WHICH LEFT DOZENS INJURED, ONE GIRL SERIOUSLY, AS THE RESULT OF A BEATING.

3. CANARIES TERRORISTS ARRESTED. IN WHAT THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE MAY LEAD TO THE EFFECTIVE DISMANTLING OF THE CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (MPAIAC), POLICE OVER THE WEEKEND ARRESTED 20 ALLEGED TERRORISTS AND CAPTURED ARMS AND COMPONENTS FOR EXPLOSIVES IN SEPARATE SWOOPS IN LAS PALMAS AND TENERIFE. CIVIL GOVERNOR GARCIA STATED AFTERWARD IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MPAIAC WAS RECEIVING SMALL AMOUNTS OF OUTSIDE AID, PRIMARILY FROM LIBYA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, FROM ALGERIA.

4. LEGALIZATION SCORE CARD. A TOTAL OF 43 PARTIES HAVE BEEN LEGALIZED THUS FAR -- 28 UNDER THE OLD LAW AND 15 UNDER THE NEW -- AND ANOTHER 97 HAVE APPLIED FOR LEGALIZATION UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE AND ARE AWAITING A DECISION. OF THESE 97, 12 REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE SUPREME COURT, INCLUDING PCE, PSUC, PTE, ORT, MC, LCR, AND THE PARTIDO CARLISTA. SOME OF THEM, INCLUDING THE PCE, ALREADY WERE NOTIFIED BY THE COURT TO BE PREPARED TO BEGIN THEIR HEARINGS IN SHORT ORDER.

5. CONFUSION ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT. INTERESTINGLY, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY FOLLOWED UP ITS CONTROVERSIAL LEGALIZATION OF THE PSOE'S "HISTORICAL" FACTION (PSOE-H) WITH A SIMILAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION ON THE RIGHT, WITH THE REGISTRATION OF A SECOND FALANGIST GROUP, THE "FE DE LAS JONS (AUTHENTICA)." THIS MAKES THE GOVT'S TREATMENT OF THE RIGHTIST GROUP, WHOSE APPLICATION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REJECTED (MADRD 1336), CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF THE PSOE-H. BUT BOTH ACTS APPEAR INCONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE POLITICAL ASSOCIATION LAW WHICH STATES IN PART THAT NO PARTY CAN BE LEGALIZED IF ITS NAME "COINCIDES OR CAUSES CONFUSION WITH THE NAME OF AN ALREADY LEAGLIZED ASSOCIATION." BOTH THE PSOE (GONZALEZ) AND FE DE LAS JONS (FERNANDEZ CUESTA) MAY NOW SEEK JUDICIAL REDRESS ON GROUNDS OF THIS ARTICLE.EATON

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